

Opening Statement of the Honorable Joe Pitts
Subcommittee on Health
Markup of H.R. 1098, the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act and H.R. 3527, the
Poison Center Network Act
December 10, 2013

(As Prepared for Delivery)

I am pleased that the subcommittee is marking up two public health bills today that address challenges facing our families and communities.

First, H.R. 1098, the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2013, introduced by Rep. Bill Pascrell, reauthorizes Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) projects to reduce the incidence of traumatic brain injury (TBI), as well as TBI surveillance systems and registries.

More than 3.17 million Americans live with a disability that resulted from a TBI.

Every year, at least 1.7 million TBIs occur either as an isolated injury or along with other injuries, and TBI is a contributing factor to more than 30% of all injury-related deaths in the United States.

These CDC programs are critical for TBI research and education and need to be reauthorized, and I'm pleased we are able to move this bill.

Finally, H.R. 3527, the Poison Center Network Act, introduced by Rep. Lee Terry, reauthorizes important activities related to poison control centers. Specifically, the bill reauthorizes the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and state grant program.

The Department of Health and Human Services estimates that in any given year there will be between three to five million poison exposures. Sixty percent of these exposures will involve children under the age of six who are exposed to toxins in their home.

Poisoning is the second most common form of unintentional death in the United States and accounts for 285,000 hospitalizations.

According to a report from the Institute of Medicine, every dollar spent on poison control center services saves seven dollars in medical spending.

I urge all of my colleagues to support these bipartisan bills.

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